



March, 2006

SRCAF Board Reviews Good Neighbor Policy

Under the direction of the SRCAF Board, a Good Neighbor Policy committee volunteered to expand and complete the earlier work of the Landowner Assurances Committee. The seven Board members (three Landowners, two Public Interest Representatives and two Agency Representatives) have been collaborating to develop a working draft.

Brendon Flynn, Tehama County Landowner and GNP Committee Chair, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the group's draft at the March SRCAF Board meeting. The GNP recognizes the issues that affect farmers and other landowners along the River with the changes of nearby land use and management programs. The draft GNP establishes a fundamental policy of the SRCAF to promote communication and understanding among neighbors, prevent loss or harm to adjacent landowners or entities, and to promptly address and attempt to resolve any resource related conflicts within the Conservation Area.

The proposed policy includes sections to address: Communication with neighbors and Review of projects; Regulatory Assurances for Incidental Take of Endangered Species; The concept of a mitigation area to recognize conservation benefits; A locally based conflict resolution process; and the investigation of a Good Neighbor Fund to compensate for unforeseen impacts.

The SRCAF Board accepted the working draft and directed that it be sent out for comments. The Committee will consider the suggestions received and prepare a final draft for adoption at the May 25th SRCAF Board meeting. For a copy of the draft GNP, contact the SRCAF office. Comments will only be accepted at the SRCAF until April 21.

In other Board action, the Board agreed that the TNC purchase of 6 acres of habitat with private funds, with the intent to donate it to the surrounding Sacramento River Wildlife Refuge, met the principles and guidelines of the Handbook. The Glenn County Board of Supervisors had also supported the acquisition.



Brendon Flynn, GNP committee chairman, discusses landowner issues at the meeting in Willows. Burt Bundy, SRCAF manager looks on during the March meeting at the Glenn County Courthouse.

Project Tracker Recap

Over one hundred projects have been entered into Project Tracker to date. Beverley Anderson-Abbs, SRCAF Resource Conservationist, is currently working on updating the website and looking at a more user friendly redesign. If you have recommendations please send them to Beverley at banderso@water.ca.gov.

New Atlas a welcome site

By John Lance, DWR

The 2004 Sacramento River Aerial Photo Atlas is now available on the SRCAF website. This is the third edition of the atlas, which has evolved from the 1997 Atlas and 1999 Atlas. It seems that every year the quality gets better and better. This latest edition utilizes aerial photography from AirPhoto USA that has a pixel resolution of 2'. This means that every pixel in the imagery covers 2 square feet on the ground surface!

The atlas has proved very useful for field studies, recreation activities, and navigation. Some of our users of the atlas are CSU Chico – Dept. Biological Sciences, Stillwater Sciences, Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife, and Tehama County. A recent request for the atlas came from a gentleman who was planning a canoe trip from Redding to Sacramento. Here is what he had to say, "We were able to plot our camping locations and determine travel time etc. because of the atlas. Thanks again for the Atlas". It would have been very difficult without them."

To view the atlas online, go to www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov

Colusa Subreach Planning moves into high gear

By Gregg Werner

Colusa Subreach Planning is moving forward with the planning and research projects that were chosen by the Advisory Workgroup. The Workgroup identified the major questions and concerns of local landowners related to wildlife habitat conservation. From this list, they selected projects that would provide the most usable information to help answer questions, resolve potential problems and design wildlife habitat restoration projects that are compatible with agriculture, flood control, water supply and recreation. Four projects are now in process:

1. Flood Control Analysis including state-of-the-art hydraulic modeling of the entire Colusa Subreach to: evaluate existing channel capacity versus historical capacity and the effects of large woody debris, evaluate the cumulative effects of potential restoration projects, and include independent peer review of the findings of this analysis;

2. Recreation Planning with local public involvement to: identify specific ways to improve access to public lands in the Subreach, and develop a master plan for the expansion of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area on a 243 acre property that TNC will donate for Recreation Area expansion and the changes required to complement the proposed new boat ramp location;

3. Economic Analysis to identify: the fiscal effect of potential land transfers to State agencies on local governments, and the effect of potential wildlife habitat restoration projects on the local economy;

4. Analysis of Potential Effects on Agriculture related to: regulatory changes and pest species effects that might result from wildlife habitat restoration and ways to resolve any identified negative effects.

The Advisory Workgroup approved the scope of these projects and selected experts to develop this information. They will also follow these projects and oversee the presentation of the results to the public.

Colusa Subreach Planning includes the area inside of the flood control levees between Princeton and Colusa and it will continue into mid 2007. All reports and documents will be available to the public. For further information contact SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy at 530-528-7411, The Nature Conservancy's Project Manager Gregg Werner at 530-897-6370-x216 or view all reports and documents at the SRCAF website www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.



"Techies" Jamison Watts, Gallaway Consulting; Adam Henderson, DWR; John Lance, DWR; and Seth Paine, TNC; discuss some of the more technical aspects of the March Technical Advisory Committee meeting at the Northern District DWR office in Red Bluff.

DWR celebrates 50 years

The Department of Water Resources will celebrate its 50th Anniversary at the State Capitol, Wednesday, May 31.

The Northern District DWR provides organizational support to the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF), including program management and administration, participation in technical and public meetings, assisting the SRCAF Technical Advisory Committee in the review of site specific plans, and providing contract administration and oversight for collaborating academic institutions doing focused research on the Sacramento River.

In addition, the Northern District conducts and coordinates field studies in erosion, sedimentology, hydrology, and vegetation to further develop our understanding of natural processes on the Sacramento River. Northern District staff also manage the Sacramento Geographic Information System. More information can be found at: www.water.ca.gov



Glenn Hawes guided a fieldtrip on his 800 acre Stillwater Plains Mitigation Bank project in Shasta County. Among others, (l to r) Glenn Hawes, Don Anderson, Dan Efseaff, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Burt Bundy, and Gregg Werner enjoyed the emergent wetlands. The land incorporates vernal pools, Valley Elderberry trees, grazing, hunting and fishponds.



Water
Wise:

Q. An inch of rain falling on an acre of land is equal to how many gallons of water?

A. 27,154 gallons of water (United States Geological Survey)

Technical Advisory Committee Briefs

January: Gregg Werner gave a PowerPoint update on the **Colusa Subreach Project** (CSP). While some members of the Advisory Workgroup have decided they do not want to continue until the **SRCAF Good Neighbor Policy** (GNP) has been adopted, the majority agreed to move forward and are addressing a suite of planning and research projects previously chosen by the Advisory Workgroup (AW) to address landowner concerns.

Dan Efseaff, River Partners (RP), reported the final for the **Llano Seco Riparian Feasibility Study** is on their website at www.riverpartners.org.

Stacy Cepello, Vice Chair, presented a copy of the new **Sacramento River atlas**. Photography Air Photo USA rights were purchased by DWR.

Beverley Anderson-Abbs gave an update on the **SRCAF Working Landscapes Grant Proposal** which includes: upgrading the Project Tracker website, determining an overall baseline and conservation benefit for the SRCA, developing a Safe Harbor type of program to provide regulatory assurances, and working with various groups to put together an incentive package for landowners. The **GNP** and **strawman** developed by the LAC and LEGACI group were the basis for the grant proposal.

February: New TAC Chair, Ajay Singh presided over the meeting and Stacy Cepello reported the new River Atlas, covering Keswick Dam to Colusa, is now on the SRCAF website at www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov under "Publications".

Dan Efseaff, RP, gave a PowerPoint update on the **Chico Country Day School Riparian Restoration Education** grant, a one year program integrating classroom work with hands on fieldwork at the Del Rio restoration site. Dan also gave an update on the habitat restoration of 120 acres at the **McConnell Arboretum**, across the river from Turtle Bay Exploration Park.

Woody Elliott announced the CA State Parks and Recreation Commission will take part in a briefing on the **Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR**, in early March.

Kelly Moroney reported the **La Barranca/Blackberry Island project** is projected to start in the spring.

Gregg Werner, TNC, reported on **Project Tracker #111**, the acquisition of 6+ acres of riparian habitat within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. A recommendation to the SRCAF Board that this project is consistent with the guidelines and principles of the handbook will be presented for review at the board meeting in March.

Issues and alternatives for **unscreened diversions** were determined to be a good topic for a future workshop. Contact

Burt Bundy with any ideas or suggestions.

March: John Merz reported the **CA State Parks and Recreation Commission** adopted the management plan for Bidwell State Park.

Gregg Werner reported on the last CSP session and that some of those that have withdrawn from the **CSPAW** are still attending the meetings.

Stacy Cepello reported the governor's office has declared an emergency on 20+ high priority erosion sites, some of which are in **Reach 3 and 4**. The providence is to fix the sites.

Alison Groom, DWR, gave a detailed **GIS** PowerPoint on the **district data library from Keswick to Verona**. John Lance, DWR reviewed the Sacramento River raw (not GIS ready) **aerial photography** and geo referenced photo index. Adam Henderson, DWR, discussed **historical bank mapping**. For TAC meeting minutes visit www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

Hamilton City project taking next steps

The Hamilton City Workgroup met in January and March to discuss the next steps for the Flood Control/Ecosystem Restoration project. The SRCAF has been involved with this project since 2000 and has been instrumental in bringing together people with diverse interests along the river to focus on a solution for Hamilton City.

Last November, Senator Feinstein and Congressman Herger announced that the Energy and Water Development appropriations Act of 2006 includes funding for three critical flood protection projects in Northern CA, including \$250,000 for the Hamilton City Project. Along with a \$75,000 non-federal cost share agreement signed in December, this allows the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) for the project. An aggressive PED study schedule should see construction contracts awarded by June 2008.

This multi-objective project integrates the goals of flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration for the Sacramento River and has been widely supported.



Ajay Singh



Kelly Moroney noted the **Rio Vista Swale project**, completed last fall, has worked. Receding floodwater showed improved drainage and the swale has since been used as a wildlife and rescue corridor.

The SRCAF 2006 Board of Directors

- **Brendon Flynn, Tehama County**
- **Ron Warner, Tehama County**
- **Denny Bungarz, Glenn County**
- **Ben Carter, Colusa County**
- **Don Anderson, Glenn County**
- **Jane Dolan, Butte County**
- **Dan Gover, Shasta County**
- **Shirley Lewis, Butte County**
- **Dan Silva, Sutter County**
- **Lynnel Pollock, Yolo County**
- **Gary Evans, Colusa County**

Ex-Officio Members:

- Basia Trout, Bureau of Reclamation**
Catrina Martin, U.S. F&WS
Brandon Muncy, Corps of Engineers
Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game
Maureen Doherty, The Reclamation Board
Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources
- Burt Bundy, Manager**
(530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov
Ellen Gentry, Assistant
Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Resource Conservationist

Glenn Hawes ~ Chair, Shasta County
Russell Young ~ Vice Chair, Sutter County
Jim McKevitt ~ Sec./Treas., Resources Agency
Marc Faye ~ Past Chair, Yolo County

Calendar of Events

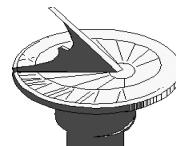
Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meetings

April 3 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties
May 1, 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
TBA



TAC meeting

May 2, 9:30a.m. to 12 noon
TBA



SRCAF Board meeting

May 25, SRCAF Annual BarBQue
Hamilton City

Hamilton City Workgroup meeting

May/June 2006
TBA